



Oxfordshire County Council

ANNUAL REPORT

ON

County Health Services

PART II

Report of the
County Medical Officer

H. C. JENNINGS

M.A., B.Sc. (Oxon), M.B., B.S. (Lond.), D.P.H.

1943

STATISTICS.

(a) GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres), 470,808.

Population (Census 1931), 129,082.

Population (Estimated mid-1943), 157,330.

Number of inhabited houses (1931), 50,638.

Number of families or separate occupiers (1931), 52,838.

Rateable value for whole County, £777,543.

Estimated product of penny rate for whole County (1943-1944),
£3075.

(b) EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

<i>Births.</i>	<i>Live Births</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
	Legitimate	2649	1386	1263
	Illegitimate	228	128	100
		—	—	—
		2877	1514	1363
		—	—	—

Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population 18.2.

Stillbirths.

	<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Legitimate	70	39	31
Illegitimate	12	8	4
	—	—	—
	82	47	35
	—	—	—

Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births 27.7.

<i>Deaths.</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
	1726	862	864

Rate per 1000 10.97.

Maternal Mortality (whole County).

	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births</i>
Puerperal sepsis	2	.67
Other puerperal causes	5	1.69
	—	—
Total	7	2.36
	—	—

The maternal death rate per 1000 of total live births is 2.42.

The maternal death rate for Oxfordshire, less Banbury M.B. (separate M.C.W. Authority), was 1.86.

Death rate of infants under one year of age—

All infants per 1000 live births	...	...	...	33.7
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	...			31.6
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births				57
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...		5

Birth Rate. This rate is a further increase as compared with the previous year, the figures being 18.2 and 16.8 respectively. The corresponding figure for England and Wales for 1943 is 16.5.

The illegitimate births number 8 per cent of the total births for the year.

Death Rate. This rate is slightly higher compared with 1942, the figures being 10.9 and 10.3 respectively. The corresponding figure for England and Wales for 1943 is 12.1.

Infant Mortality. The following table gives the rate per 1000 births for the County and for England and Wales during the past five years;

<i>Year</i>	<i>Oxfordshire</i>	<i>England & Wales</i>
1943	34	49
1942	33	49
1941	38	59
1940	51	55
1939	36	50
1938	34	53

Maternal Mortality
Per 1000 live and stillbirths

1943	1.86	2.29
1942	.7	2.01
1941	.38	2.23
1940	.45	2.16
1939	.96	2.83
1938	1.37	3.08

CANCER

The total number of deaths from cancer recorded during the year was 254, which number is 14.7 per cent of the total number of deaths from all causes. The rate for 1943 was 1.61 as compared with 1.54 for 1942.

DEATHS FROM CANCER
Urban Districts

				0	1	5	15	45	65
Males	—	1	—	2	8	27
Females	—	1	—	8	14	21

Rural Districts

				0	1	5	15	45	65
Males	—	—	—	4	30	54
Females	—	1	—	3	28	54

Facilities for treatment by radium are available at the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford.

TABLE SHOWING THE CHIEF KILLING DISEASES IN OXFORDSHIRE DURING THE YEAR

<i>Disease</i>				<i>Total number of deaths</i>
Heart Disease	...	...	...	459
Cancer	...	...	...	279
Cerebral haemorrhage			...	251
Bronchitis	...	...	...	129
Pneumonia (all forms)			...	102
Tuberculosis (all forms)			...	73
Road accidents	...	...	...	29

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following infectious diseases were reported during the year:

Smallpox	...	...	...	...	nil
Typhoid	...	...	...	...	nil
Paratyphoid Fever			...	...	2
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	374
Whooping Cough			...	...	354
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	27
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	29
Measles	...	...	...	...	2359
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	105
Puerperal Pyrexia		...	...	...	4

The only increase was that in the number of cases of measles notified, 2359 compared with 581 of the previous year.

Three deaths were due to measles, four to whooping cough and one to diphtheria.

Vital Statistics of whole County during 1943 and previous years.

YEAR	Population estimated to middle of each year	BIRTHS		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE COUNTY			
		Number 3	Rate per 1000 of population 4	Under 1 year of Age		At all Ages	
				Number 5	Rate per 1000 Nett Births 6	Number 7	Rate per 1000 of population 8
1							
1938	135,200	2,167	16.0	75	34.6	1,635	12.0 (9.78)†
1939	B.R. 142,530 D.R. 137,660	2,116	15.2	78	36.4	1,727	12.1 (9.8)†
1940	157,880	2,175	13.8	117	51.3	1,987	12.6
1941	178,800	2,370	13.2	110	* 41	1,931	10.8
1942	164,110	2,760	16.8	94	33	1,706	10.3
1943	157,330	2,877	18.2	97	34	1,726	10.9

* Based upon a total of 2629 births. † A corrected rate having been adjusted for age and sex distribution.

Table showing vital statistics for 1943 of each
Urban District in the County

		Nett Deaths belonging to the District		
		Under 1 year of age		At all Ages
		Rate per 1000 Nett Births		Rate
Banbury	39	10·6
Bicester	11	10·8
Chipping Norton	35	11·9
Henley	21	10·8
Thame	72	10·1
Witney	37	10·6
Woodstock	52	18·7

Table showing vital statistics for 1943 of each
Rural District in the County

			Nett Deaths belonging to the District		
			Under 1 year of age		At all Ages
			Rate per 1000 Nett Births		Rate
Banbury	24	13·0
Bullington	33	10·0
Chipping Norton	11	11·5
Henley	37	10·4
Ploughley	42	10·9
Witney	38	11·1

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

No. cases notified	...	...	...	7
„ „ treated at home	...	...	...	nil
„ „ treated in hospital	...	...	...	7
„ „ where vision impaired	...	...	...	nil
„ „ deaths	...	...	...	nil

Puerperal Pyrexia

No. cases notified	...	...	...	13
„ „ visited by Council Officers	...	...	...	13
„ „ removed to hospital	...	...	...	7

School Closures

Measles	...	...	...	3 schools
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	5 schools
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	1 school
Influenza	...	...	...	1 school
Chicken Pox	...	...	...	1 school

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.**Maternity and Nursing Homes.**

The County Council is the Local Supervisory Authority under Sec. 187, Public Health Act, 1936. There were 9 homes on the register at the end of the year of which 8 were Maternity Homes.

Year 1943.

Number of applications for registration	...	...	...	nil
Number of Homes registered	...	...	...	nil
Number of Orders made refusing or cancelling registration	...	...	...	nil
Number of appeals against such orders	...	...	...	nil
Number of applications for exemption from registration	...	...	...	1
Number of cases in which exemption has been granted	...	...	...	1

No application has been made to the County Council by a County District Council for the delegation of powers.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.

There are now 43 centres in the County including those held at Residential Nurseries.

The number of infants attending for the first time was:—

Under 1 year...	...	...	...	1450
1—5 years	...	...	...	713
				—
Total				2163
				—

Lectures were given on Mothercraft and other subjects.

Hospital treatment continues to be provided under the County Infant Welfare Scheme. 23 children were treated at Burford Cottage Hospital and as in-patients at the Wingfield-Morris Hospital at a cost of £495. Seven children suffering from ophthalmia neonatorum were treated at the Oxford Eye Hospital. 45 children under five years of age were examined by an Ophthalmic Surgeon and glasses were provided in 27 cases.

Health Visitors.

There are now 19 health visitors, including 5 temporary ones. The health visitors are whole-time officers of the County Council.

Prevention of Infection by Lice.

The Health Visitors as School Nurses make regular cleanliness inspections in all schools and follow up all infected children in their homes, instructing mothers how to cleanse their children and also how to keep them clean. Lethane hair oil is supplied where necessary and parents instructed in its use. In all domiciliary visits where it is found necessary the need for cleanliness and instruction in connection therewith forms a routine part of the Health Visitors' duties. Talks on this subject are given in the Infant Welfare Centres in the County.

Public Health Act, 1936.

Infant Life Protection.

The number of children on the register at the end of the year was 213. The number of foster parents was 132. Regular visits to children were paid by the Health Visitors.

Adoption of Children Act, 1926.

The Superintendent Health Visitor acted as guardian *ad litem* in 23 cases. Adoption orders were made in all but two cases.

VENERAL DISEASES.

The Counties of Oxfordshire and Berkshire and the City of Oxford continue the Agreement with the Governors of the Radcliffe Infirmary whereby free treatment is given to all applicants at the Infirmary. The total cost to the Infirmary is divided in respect of out-patients' treatment in proportion to the attendances made by patients from the areas of the three authorities and as regards in-patients' treatment in accordance with the number of days on which beds are occupied by such patients.

An agreement has also been entered into with the Royal Berkshire Hospital for the treatment of Oxfordshire patients.

Each authority pays the cost of the pathological examinations of its own patients.

The following tables give the number of new cases of the disease during the last five years, belonging to Oxfordshire:—

Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford.

	<i>Syphilis</i>		<i>Gonorrhœa</i>		<i>Non-Venereal</i>		<i>Total</i>
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	<i>Attendances</i>
1939	2	2	19	12	10	21	986
1940	13	10	31	7	5	21	1321
1941	10	13	34	9	16	26	1829
1942	13	9	17	10	8	20	1083
1943	14	17	24	15	49	43	1167

Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading.

1939	<i>Syphilis</i>		<i>Gonorrhoea</i>		<i>Non-Venereal Attendances</i>		
July- Dec.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
	1	1	8	5	4	8	
1940	24	13	35	7	11	21	397
1941	10	10	34	9	16	26	184
1942	13	9	17	10	8	20	217
1943	1	2	4	4	6	13	186

TUBERCULOSIS.

(Report by DR. N. J. ENGLAND.)

Vital Statistics. The incidence of tuberculosis as shown by notifications and deaths is demonstrated in the following table:—

New Cases (notifications)

Deaths

<i>Age</i>		<i>Non-</i>		<i>Age</i>		<i>Non-</i>	
<i>Groups</i>	<i>Pulmonary</i>	<i>Pulmonary</i>	<i>Pulmonary</i>	<i>Groups</i>	<i>Pulmonary</i>	<i>Pulmonary</i>	<i>Pulmonary</i>
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.
0—	—	—	1	—	0—	—	—
1—	1	—	4	2	1—	1	—
5—	—	—	4	5	5—	1	—
10—	2	2	1	4	15—	16	12
15—	7	4	1	5	45—	9	5
20—	12	15	2	1	65—	1	—
25—	19	20	2	9	75—	—	—
35—	17	8	—	2			
45—	11	6	2	2			
55—	9	3	—	—			
65—	—	—	—	—			
	78	58	17	30		28	17
							5
							3

Dispensary Treatment.

	No. New T.B. Cases	Total T.B. & Suspected cases, excluding contacts	% increase in Total T.B. & Suspected cases over 1934	Pop.
1934	110	231	—	131,300
1935	97	249	7%	131,400
1936	96	307	31%	132,550
1937	78	294	27%	133,660
1938	88	343	48%	135,200
1939	92	346	48%	142,530
1940	142	376	63%	157,850
1941	149	519	125%	178,800
1942	133	601	160%	164,110
1943	155	671	272%	157,330

The following table shows the number of deaths and rates per 100,000 living in the County since 1914:—

	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>All forms</i>	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Rate per 100,000</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Rate per 100,000</i>
1914	104	75	130	93
1915	113	89	141	117
1916	112	92	150	123
1917	168	144	195	168
1918	142	119	162	135
1919	105	84	137	109
1920	90	69	107	82
1921	99	75	121	92
1922	97	73	113	85
1923	89	66	108	81
1924	86	64	107	79
1925	72	53	96	71
1926	82	61	95	70
1927	99	72	118	86
1928	67	48	85	62
1929	91	70	107	83
1930	73	57	94	74
1931	61	47	74	57
1932	64	49	71	54
1933	63	48	77	58
1934	54	41	66	50
1935	54	41	70	53
1936	56	42	72	54
1937	38	28	51	38
1938	42	31.1	50	37
1939	51	35.7	60	42
1940	45	28	55	35
1941	64	34	73	41
1942	54	32	67	40
1943	45	28	53	33

TREATMENT OF TUBERCULOSIS. RETURN FOR THE YEAR 1943.

A. Return showing the work of the Dispensaries

DIAGNOSIS	PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY		TOTAL		GRAND TOTAL
	Adults. M. F.	Children. M. F.	Adults. M. F.	Children. M. F.	Adults. M. F.	Children. M. F.	
A.—NEW CASES examined during the year (excluding contacts) :—							
(a) Definitely tuberculous	64 39	4 1	11 17	6 13	75 56	10 14	155
(b) Diagnosis not completed	— —	— —	— —	— —	41 41	23 15	120
(c) Non-tuberculous	— —	— —	— —	— —	152 121	21 34	328=601
B.—CONTACTS examined during the year :—							
(a) Definitely tuberculous	1 2	— 1	— —	— —	1 2	— 1	4
(b) Diagnosis not completed	— —	— —	— —	— —	6 7	8 7	28
(c) Non-tuberculous	— —	— —	— —	— —	44 98	59 65	266=298
C.—CASES written off the Dispensary Register as :—							
(a) Recovered	5 3	1 1	— 5	5 6	5 4	6 7	22
(b) Non-tuberculous (including any such cases previously diagnosed and entered on the Dispensary Register as tuberculous)	— —	— —	— —	— —	251 261	127 105	744=766
D.—NUMBER OF CASES on Register on December 31st, 1942 :—							
(a) Definitely tuberculous	195 137	13 11	39 45	42 35	234 182	55 46	517
(b) Diagnosis not completed	— —	— —	— —	— —	53 68	49 32	202=719

1. Number of cases on Dispensary Register on January 1st	...	...	...	...	...	...	610
2. Number of cases transferred from other areas and cases returned after discharge under Head 3 in previous years	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
3. Number of cases transferred to other areas, cases not desiring further assistance under the scheme and cases "lost sight of"	...	...	...	...	...	...	88
4. Cases written off during the year as Dead (<i>all causes</i>)	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
5. Number of attendances at dispensaries	...	...	...	...	...	...	2109
6. Number of consultations—personal	...	...	...	...	...	...	65
7. Number of Visits by Tuberculosis Officer	...	...	...	...	...	...	414
8. Number of Visits by Health Visitors	...	...	...	...	...	...	1963
9. Number of specimens of sputum examined	...	...	...	...	...	...	541
10. Number of X-rays in connection with Dispensary work	...	...	...	...	...	...	1134
11. Number of "T.B. plus cases" on Dispensary register on December 31st	...	...	...	...	...	...	181

BLIND PERSONS ACTS, 1920 to 1938.

163 persons were relieved during the year at a cost of £6247.

Blind Persons in Oxfordshire.

<i>Age-period</i>					<i>Total Blind</i>
0- 1	...	...	...	...	—
1- 5	...	...	...	...	—
5-16	...	...	...	...	2
16-21	...	...	...	...	3
21-40	...	...	...	...	12
40-50	...	...	...	...	17
50-65	...	...	...	...	42
65-70	...	...	...	...	29
70 upwards	...	...	...	...	98
Unknown	...	...	...	...	—
					203

Age at which Blindness occurred.

<i>Age-period</i>					<i>Number</i>
0- 1	...	...	...	...	9
1- 5	...	...	...	...	11
5-10	...	...	...	...	5
10-20	...	...	...	...	4
20-30	...	...	...	...	11
30-40	...	...	...	...	12
40-50	...	...	...	...	21
50-60	...	...	...	...	28
60-70	...	...	...	...	50
70 upwards	...	...	...	...	40
Unknown	...	...	...	...	12
					203

VACCINATION.

Work in connection with vaccination is administered through the County Health Department.

Results show that in 1943 only 39 per cent of the total number of children whose births were registered during the year were vaccinated.

MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACTS, 1913 to 1938.

Mental Deficiency Acts Committee.

During the year ended 31st December, 1943, 22 (11 male and 11 female) new cases were ascertained.

The 22 new cases were dealt with as follows:—

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Admitted to Certified Institution ...	2	4	6
Placed under Guardianship	—	3	3
Voluntary Supervision	9	4	13
Statutory Supervision	—	—	—
	—	—	—
	11	11	22
	—	—	—
Of whom awaiting institutional treatment	4	3	7

The number of defectives ascertained by the Council to be subject to be dealt with or who might become subject to be dealt with on 31st December, 1943, was 724.

Institutional Accommodation.

On 31st December, 1943, there were 129 persons detained under Order in Institutions and 54 under guardianship.

During the year ended 31st December, 1943.

No. of Orders made under the Mental Deficiency Acts ...	19
Of whom (a) admitted to Institutions	12
(b) placed under guardianship	7
	—
	19
	—
No. of Varying Orders... ..	10
No. of Orders by Secretary of State under Mental Deficiency Act, 1913, Section 9	—
No. of urgent cases admitted temporarily to Places of Safety	7
Notifications by County Education Authority	4
Notifications by Banbury Education Authority	—

On 31st December 1943 there were 129 persons detained under Order in Institutions, distributed as follows:—

				<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Borocourt	...	...	...	19	29	48
Billericay	...	...	...	1	—	1
Buntingford	...	...	...	8	—	8
Chipping Norton	...	...	...	17	19	36
Easthampstead	...	...	...	1	—	1
Hortham Colony	...	...	...	1	—	1
Manor House, Aylesbury	...	...	...	1	2	3
Rock Hall House, Bath	...	...	...	1	—	1
Royal Earlswood	...	...	...	1	—	1
St. Joesph's Home, Sheffield	...	...	...	—	1	1
Stoke Park Colony	...	...	...	2	3	5
Sandlebridge Homes	...	...	...	—	1	1
Rampton	...	...	...	3	5	8
Moss Side	...	...	...	1	—	1
Pewsey	...	...	...	2	1	3
St. Mary's Home, Alton	...	...	...	—	7	7
Hildenborough	...	...	...	1	—	1
Priestwell House	...	...	...	—	1	1
Ellen Terry Homes, Reigate	...	...	...	—	1	1
				59	70	129

MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS AND ORDERS

By the Divisional Inspector to the Ministry of Agriculture

Tuberculous Milk—Veterinary Investigation

Eight cases have been reported during the year under review, and have involved 12 herds. All of these have been received from the Medical Officer of Health for Oxfordshire. In 4 cases involving 7 farms, all samples were returned negative. In 3 cases involving 3 farms, 1 individual sample in each case was found positive on microscopical examination, while all other samples were returned negative to a biological examination. In the eighth case, involving two farms, the full results are not yet to hand, although one individual sample has proved positive on microscopical examination.

Milk (Special Designations) Order of 1936

(1) *Accredited Milk Scheme*

Quarterly veterinary inspections have duly been carried out under the above Scheme. At the present time there are 184 licences in operation.

During the year under review 791 herd inspections have been carried out under the Scheme. 26,317 cattle have been examined. The inspections have revealed 26 cases of tuberculosis, which have been dealt with under the Order, and 67 cases of mastitis.

It is worthy of note that 7 cases of tuberculosis and 111 of mastitis were found during clinical inspections in 1943.

(2) Tuberculin Tested Herds

Half-yearly tuberculin testing and clinical examination has been carried out by the owners' veterinary practitioners, under the above Order.

2024 animals have been tested during the year, and 56 reactors have been revealed.

Tuberculosis Order of 1938

112 reported cases have been received in this Divisional Office, disease being confirmed in 96 of them.

For the first time in six years, the number of reported and confirmed cases has shown an increase, as follows:—

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
Reported cases	205	192	121	102	83	112
Confirmed cases	153	131	82	68	57	96

CHIPPINGHURST EMERGENCY MATERNITY HOME

Summarised Report, 1943

Total number of deliveries ...	...	380
Primipara ...	...	242
Multipara ...	...	138
Forcep deliveries ...	...	15 i.e. rate of 4%
Ruptured perineum ...	...	67
Pyrexia ...	...	10
Notifiable pyrexia ...	...	2
Breast abscess ...	...	2
Maternal deaths ...	...	1
Foetal deaths ...	...	4
Stillbirths ...	...	2 i.e. 0.5%
Antepartum hæmorrhage ...	...	1
Postpartum hæmorrhage ...	...	5
Manual removal of placenta ...	...	4
Blood transfusion ...	...	5
Eclampsia ...	...	1

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Every effort was made during the year, either by poster, leaflet or advertisement to stress the need for immunisation.

Arrangements were made with School Doctors to immunise school children at the routine medical inspection whilst children under five years are immunised at the Infant Welfare Centre or by their own private doctors.

During the year the numbers of children immunised were:—

Under five years	...	2845
Over „ „	...	1226

